



Governor
Arnold
Schwarzenegger

Secretary
Victoria L. Bradshaw

Agricultural
Labor
Relations
Board

California
Unemployment
Insurance
Appeals
Board

California
Workforce
Investment
Board

Department of
Industrial
Relations

Economic
Strategy
Panel

Employment
Development
Department

Employment
Training
Panel

C A L I F O R N I A

Labor & Workforce Development Agency

May 20, 2005

To: All Hospital Administrators in California

Dear Sir or Madam:

As you may have heard, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has launched a major initiative to help lessen – and hopefully end -- the nursing shortage in California. The Governor knows that this is a great challenge, which cannot be accomplished by government alone. He wants to provide you the opportunity to be part of the solution to this statewide crisis, starting in your own community.

To fund the first component of his plan, the Governor has committed \$30 million in workforce investment funds over the next five years as an initial step in supporting nurse education efforts. The plan calls for collaboration with the California Community Colleges and with private industry sources, bringing the total to \$90 million devoted exclusively to addressing the state's nursing shortage and toward the goal of increasing educational capacity so that we will be able to educate all of the nurses that our state requires.

Reemphasizing his commitment to this issue, in the Governor's revised budget, released in mid-May, he proposed adding another \$10 million for educational loan forgiveness for new faculty, creation of regional simulation laboratories and for nursing pre-apprenticeship programs. Further, he augmented the California Community College budget with an additional \$10 million to increase nursing program enrollment capacity by at least 1,800 slots.

Grants will be made available to groups that form partnerships intended to expand nursing education opportunities. Chancellor Mark Drummond of the California Community Colleges has already released the Solicitation for Grant Applications (SGA) to community colleges. We urge you to contact your local community college and encourage your participation. Until you have an opportunity to review that document, here are some things you should know:

- This is just one activity in Governor Schwarzenegger's five-point plan to ease the nursing shortage. More information on the complete plan can be found on our agency website at www.labor.ca.gov.
- The grants will go to community colleges that form partnerships with private and/or public non-profit entities. It is a collaborative effort, including state government, the California community college system, and the hospital/health care industry.

- The grants can generally be used to expand existing education programs, create new programs or reduce attrition rates in existing nursing programs. Specific details are included in the SGA.
- Community colleges will have approximately 90 days to apply for the grants and will be looking for partners in this effort.
- Grants will most likely be awarded in September with programs beginning in October.

I would also appreciate hearing from you about any creative ideas as to how we might work together to expand the capacity of the existing nurse education system to produce more nurses. If you have experienced roadblocks to expanding capacity, I would appreciate knowing that as well.

Please give this grant opportunity every consideration. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jaime Fall, Director of Workforce Strategies, at (916) 327-9064.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Bradshaw". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Victoria L. Bradshaw
Secretary